

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
DON KNABE

November 3, 2009

California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999 to protect the diversity and continuing reproduction of California's ocean habitats for the purpose of sustaining, conserving, and protecting marine life populations for the benefit of all who enjoy and want to protect California's coastal resources for future generations.

Since its adoption, regional and local Marine Protection Areas (MPAs), have been established through the MLPA process to provide a range of protection levels along the entire coast of California. The California Department of Fish and Game has been the lead agency in overseeing the development of, and approving the implementation and enforcement of MPAs along California's coast.

In 2009, sites in the Santa Monica Bay were developed for potential MPAs, and a series of workshops, studies, scientific review and integration of stakeholder input and recommendations resulted in 3 plans being presented to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on October 20-22, 2009 to consider and recommend to the California Fish and Game Commission for their eventual adoption of specific MPAs along the South Coast. The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force received the recommendations of its Scientific Advisory Team based on the merits of each of 3 proposed MPA plans, along with comments and

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recommendations from major stakeholder groups including local government, recreationists (fishing, boating, kayak, divers), and conservationists. At their meeting on October 22, 2009, the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force decided to extend deliberations until November 10, 2009, when they propose to recommend a specific plan to the California Fish and Game Commission for the adoption of South Coast MPAs under the California MLPA.

Each of the 3 plans presented has many merits that correspond with the original intent and mission of the Marine Life Protection Act adopted by California in 1999. Upon review and consideration of the various stakeholder groups' input and recommendations, we would like to propose a plan to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force that incorporates the best protective and economically sustainable elements of all 3 plans.

By incorporating Map 2 in Palos Verdes and Map 1 in Malibu into the final map, we believe the best interests of supporting recreational and commercial fishing, along with sustaining and protecting essential marine reserves and kelp habitats in Santa Monica Bay, will result in the best outcome for the vast majority of stakeholder interests in the Santa Monica Bay, and, most importantly, increase the longevity, health and reproduction of our critical ocean habitat(s) for the continuing benefit of the County's economic and environmental interests.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the County Board of Supervisors adopt the accompanying resolution supporting a MPA plan balancing these aforementioned interests;

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to draft a letter of support from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the Marine Life Protection Act Blue Ribbon Task Force for this resolution as further comment and input prior to the Blue Ribbon Task Force deliberations resuming on November 10, 2009.

SN: motions\MLPA

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
SUPPORTING A SPECIFIC MARINE PROTECTION AREAS PLAN FOR THE
RECOMMENDATION TO THE MLPA BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE.**

WHEREAS, California adopted the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in 1999 to provide improved protection for the diversity and abundance of California's ocean habitats through a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) with the goals of sustaining, conserving and protecting marine life populations, protecting marine ecosystems, improving recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems, and protecting marine natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, near shore rocky reef and kelp bed habitats along the north coast of Malibu and Palos Verdes Peninsula are among most abundant and diverse in Los Angeles County coastal waters as well as the Southern California Bight; and

WHEREAS, MPAs established through the MLPA process provide a range of protection levels through three types of MPA designations: state marine reserve (SMR), state marine park (SMP), and state marine conservation area (SMCA) in order to meet MLPA goals; and

WHEREAS, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) data show that some fish stocks in the Santa Monica Bay and the Southern California Bight are depressed; and

WHEREAS, DFG documents show that recreational and commercial fishing are of enormous cultural and economic value and provide significant employment and recreational opportunities for small businesses, subsistence fishers, sport divers, and others; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies locally and around the world show that freeing key habitats of fishing pressure results in increased abundance, diversity and size of target species in adjacent areas and is an effective way to support long-term harvesting of fish for present and future users; and

WHEREAS, there is strong scientific evidence that MPAs, especially marine reserves, restore and protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function and integrity of marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, these scientific studies also show that a wider variety of bigger, more abundant fish are better at seeding future populations which, in the event of natural or man-made environmental disasters or accidental mismanagement of fisheries due to lack of knowledge of the resource, will expedite recovery of fish stocks and other related resources and ensure the ecological integrity of Los Angeles County's coastal ecosystems.

WHEREAS, the Point Dume Headlands and inshore reefs along the Malibu coast should be included in a Marine Reserve because they support a diversity of marine life and habitats including a submarine canyon, rich kelp forests, and rocky reefs, while leaving areas east and west open for fishing as exhibited in Map 1.

WHEREAS, the Rocky Point area around the Palos Verdes Peninsula should be excluded from consideration for a Marine Life Protection Area because of its unique character as a critical socioeconomic and cultural resource for communities throughout the Santa Monica Bay Region as exhibited in Map 2.

WE THEREFORE, RESOLVE that the members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors support the following outcomes of the Marine Life Protection Act implementation in Los Angeles County:

- A balanced compromise proposal for Los Angeles County that incorporates protections from Regional Stakeholder Group developed map 2 in Palos Verdes and map 1 in Malibu;
- Marine protected areas that protect and conserve marine life and habitat, allowing for the recovery of depleted fish, invertebrate, and plant populations;
- A process that uses the best readily available science and socioeconomic data, as well as the advice and assistance of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public;
- Marine parks and conservation areas that encourage public enjoyment of the marine environment, while educating users about the benefits and risks of consuming fish and shellfish from the Los Angeles area; and
- An adaptive management framework that actively involves coastal communities in long-term outreach and monitoring the ecological and socio-economic impacts of MPAs in Los Angeles County coastal waters.

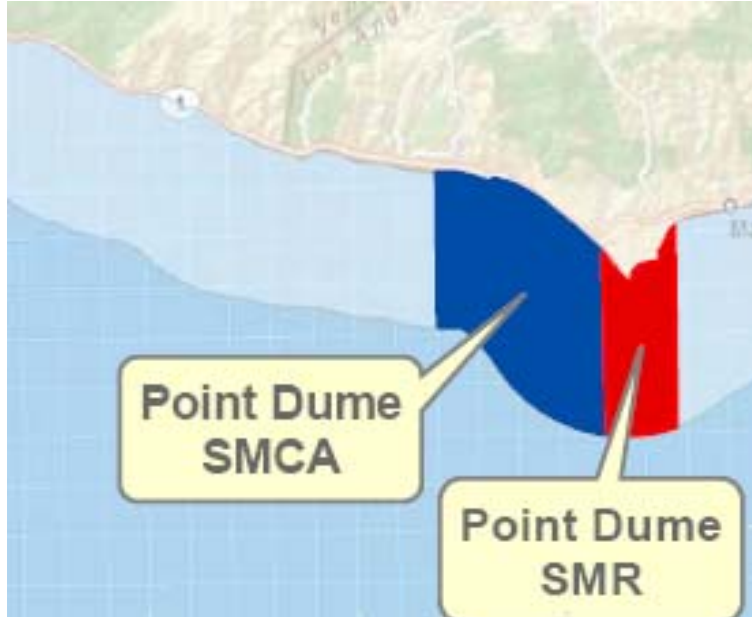
The forgoing resolution was adopted on the 320 day of NOVEMBER, 2009, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles.



ATTEST: SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By [Signature] Deputy

Map 1: Malibu and Palos Verdes shapes developed by a group of stakeholders representing consumptive and non-consumptive interests



This stretch of the Malibu coast encompasses some of the most diverse habitats in Los Angeles County, including an upwelling zone, submarine canyon habitat, unique spur and groove reef structures, extensive kelp, and diverse understory algal habitat. This is also an area of high species diversity. There are long-term monitoring and research opportunities in this area. This is also an area that plays a significant role in Chumash maritime culture. It is sited to balance consumptive and non-consumptive interests. The Point Dume marine reserve (red) is fully protected, while the conservation area (blue) is an area that only allows for squid fishing; spear fishing for pelagic finfish, white seabass, and bonito; and harpooning of swordfish.

Map 2: Malibu and Palos Verdes shapes developed by a group of stakeholders representing consumptive interests



This Point Vicente SMR/Abalone Cove SMCA cluster provides a high level of protection to habitats on the western and southern faces of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and is sited to be mindful of socioeconomic concerns in this region. The Point Vicente marine reserve (red) is fully protected, while the Abalone Cove marine conservation area (blue) allow for squid fishing; spear fishing for

pelagic finfish, white seabass, and bonito; harpooning of swordfish; pelagic round haul net and dip net for coastal pelagic finfish; and

hook and line for jumbo squid.